



# Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FROM: TOWN MANAGER  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2013  
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

***The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.***

1. Landfill – Attached to this Update is the recent summary from Steve Wright at Kleinfelder regarding the status of the Groveland Street landfill. We will seek to have him attend a Board meeting in the near future to discuss this matter. When that time comes we will re-circulate the update.
2. Memorial Arch – The ConCom NOI hearing that was continued to September 10 has been continued “indefinitely”. Apparently there is a desire to have more discussion with the chosen contractor prior to the issuance of an Order of Conditions. The problem is that we will be unable to effectively procure a contractor without knowing what is being required by the ConCom as there will be cost implications. I am planning to meet with the Chairman next week to strategize how to move forward.
3. Strawberry Valley Golf Course – I have worked to update the RFP for the contract that expires December 2013. With the help of an Inspector General’s Advisory published in 2009 the Chairman, Steve Wakelin and I have made some changes that should be helpful. I have forwarded this to K&P for a review. The goal is to have the RFP available for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October.
4. Waste Solutions – Per my last update I forwarded the attached letter to Waste Solutions.
5. Town Meeting - I have worked with Dori to format the town meeting warrant a bit differently than in recent years. Keep in mind that we do not have an up to date 5 year capital plan as such at our disposal to draw upon for the purposes of article submission, however, the items that you see will probably look reasonably familiar to you. In conjunction with the budget process we will be requesting a 5 year projected capital needs statement from each department that will become the basis of an overall plan.
6. Web Site - You will recall that one of the goals that we had was to review the town’s website for opportunities to make the site more interactive for ease of use by the public. In that regard IT Director Wayne Norling has begun to review other municipal websites in the hopes of finding positive attributes that we could bring to Abington. For several years now the Massachusetts Municipal Association has an annual Website contest and recognizes municipalities of varying sizes for their sites. We decided that it makes sense to start reviewing those past “winners” first particularly to get a sense of any specific innovations that have been developed. At this point in time there are so many cities and towns that use the Virtual Town Hall platform that we have all started to look alike. There are pros and cons to that. That being said – if anybody has any specific ideas or experiences that you think are helpful please forward to me and/or Wayne as this process moves along.
7. Public Works – I had previously met with the Chairman of Park and Rec. and have since had the opportunity to meet with the full Board. In addition to their regular business we have discussed the possibility of solidifying the current responsibilities that have been absorbed into the Highway Dept on a permanent basis. The particular concerns of the Commission have to do with the ability to organize

and maintain programs for various age groups rather than deal with facility and personnel management. I can fully appreciate this goal and believe that it fits nicely with the goal of the Board of Selectmen to integrate permanently some of these historic responsibilities of Park & Recreation into a Public Works Dept. during the 2014 Charter Review.